



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/501,900	07/20/2004	Midori Kobayashi	007324-0310472	8951

909 7590 03/24/2006

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP
P.O. BOX 10500
MCLEAN, VA 22102

EXAMINER

RAPP, CHAD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2125

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/501,900

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Chad Rapp

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5,6,8-12,14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4,7 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/20/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2125

1. Claims 1-15 and presented for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 4, 7 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 2-5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 2, line 6 “the main groups” should be changed to “main groups”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In claim 15, line 6 “the previous operation control program” should be changed to “a previous operation control program”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

Art Unit: 2125

such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guzzi et al. in view of Jo et al.

Guzzi et al. teaches the claimed invention(claim 1) substantially as claimed including a laundry system comprising a terminal device and a laundry apparatus comprising:

- a. A display panel is taught as a visual display device(page 7 lines 5-6);
- b. An input panel is taught as input means(page 7 line 6);
- c. A first short-range communication device is taught as a director is in communication with consumer appliance(page 19 lines 10-11);
- d. A long-rang communication device is taught as telephone modem(page 13 lines 23-29);
- e. A terminal device controller transmitting information about clothes as laundry and information about a laundry constraint both set on the input panel, to server connected to a long-range communication device is taught as the user sets desired conditions and processing factors entered using this information for optimal processing(page 4 lines 17-19 and page 24 lines 13-25);
- f. Obtaining an operation control program for the laundry apparatus on the basis of the two pieces of information is taught as optimization module optimizes based on the inputted desired washing conditions and processing factors(page 24 lines 17-20 and page 24 lines 22-25);
- g. The terminal device controller transmitting the obtained operation control program via the first short-range communication device to the laundry apparatus is taught as a director is in communication with consumer appliance(page 19 lines 10-11);

h. The terminal device controller receiving via the first short-range communication device information about an operating state of the laundry apparatus is taught as in response to control signals the operating states are displayed(page 1 lines 18-24);

i. A laundry unit is taught as washing machine(page 21 line 22);

j. A second short-range communication device is taught as a director is in communication with consumer appliance(page 19 lines 10-11);

k. A laundry apparatus controller receiving the operation control program via the second short-range communication device from the terminal device to control the laundry unit so that laundry is washed and/or dried is taught as a director is in communication with consumer appliance(page 19 lines 10-11);

Guzzi et al. teaches the above listed details of the independent claim 1, however, Guzzi et al. does not teach: the terminal device controller receiving via the first short-range communication device information about an operating state of the laundry apparatus, displaying the information on the display panel and the laundry apparatus controller transmitting to the terminal device the information about the operating state of the laundry apparatus via the second short-range communication device.

Jo et al. teaches :

a. Displaying the information on the display panel is taught as displaying the operation states(page 1 line 24);

b. An operation panel is taught as user interface(page 21 line 21);

c. The laundry apparatus controller transmitting to the terminal device the information about the operating state of the laundry apparatus via the second short-range

communication device is taught as in response to control signals the operating states are displayed(page 1 lines 18-24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made or used to modify the teachings of Guzzi et al. with teachings of Jo et al. because the guided washing provides conveniences to beginners as well as all users of the washing machine and the ascertaining of washing conditions set according to requirements of the user permits to an exact conduction of the washing cycles.

As to claim 2, Guzzi et al. teaches:

a. Wherein the terminal device controller obtains from the server a plurality of major groups of clothes to be laundered to display the obtained major groups on the display panel is taught as one or more processing factors for each work piece, inform user of cleaning factors of items of clothes(page 19 lines 23-24);

b. The terminal device controller obtaining from the server a plurality of minor groups of clothes belonging to a selected one of the main groups, displaying the obtained minor groups on the display panel is taught as user inputs white, 100% cotton, etc.(page 20 lines 8-9).

As to claim 3, Jo et al. teaches wherein the terminal device controller obtains from the server a piece of guide information about the laundry of clothes belonging to a selected one of the minor groups to display the obtained information on the display panel is taught as displaying the guide message for the washing course(page 3 lines 20-22).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made or used to modify the teachings of Guzzi et al. with teachings of Jo et al. because the guided washing provides conveniences to beginners as well as all users of the washing machine

and the ascertaining of washing conditions set according to requirements of the user permits to an exact conduction of the washing cycles.

As to claim 5, Guzzi et al. teaches wherein when two or more minor groups are designated as laundry, the terminal device controller obtains from the server a piece of information as to whether it is appropriate for laundry of clothes belonging to the two or more minor groups. together, thereby to display the obtained information on the display panel is taught as determining potential laundry conflicts corresponding to the cleaning factors of each of the items of clothing and notifying user(page 23 lines 1-5).

As to claim 6, Guzzi et al. teaches wherein when a “noise-reduced” course had been selected as the laundry constraint, the terminal device controller obtains from the server the operation control program taking the selected laundry constraint into account, transferring the obtained operation control program to the laundry apparatus is taught as the optimizing module in conjunction with the director would make changes to laundry settings to minimize the vibrations of the washing machine(page 18 lines 6-10)

As to claim 8, Guzzi et al. teaches wherein when a “detergent setting” course has been selected so that a detergent to be used has been designated, the terminal device controller obtains from the server the operation control program taking the selected laundry constraint into account, transferring the obtained control program to the laundry apparatus is taught as the detergent dispenser is integrated in the washing machine and the dispenser is in communication with the optimization module which sends instructions for appropriate time, amount and choice of laundry composition to dispense into washing machine(page 11 lines 17-23).

As to claim 10, Guzzi et al. teaches:

Art Unit: 2125

- a. Wherein when receiving via the input panel an instruction regarding addition of the terminal device controller obtains from the server main and minor groups of clothes to be allowed to be added, displaying the obtained groups on the display panel is taught as notifying the user of other entries that could be added(page 26 lines 4-17);
- b. When minor groups of clothes to be added are instructed via the input panel, the terminal device controller obtains from the server the operation control program taking addition of clothes into account, transmitting the obtained program to the laundry apparatus controller is taught as accounting for the laundry options when determining the optimized laundry conditions(page 23 lines 14-15).

As to claim 11, Guzzi et al. teaches:

- a. Wherein the terminal device controller displays, on the display panel, a changeable item of the operation control program which has been transferred to the laundry apparatus controller is taught as prompting the user to accept or modify the optimized laundry conditions(page 23 lines 5-9 and page 23 lines 18-19);
- b. When a change has been instructed via the input panel, the terminal device controller obtains form the server the operation control program taking instructed contents into account, transmitting the obtained operation control program to the laundry apparatus is taught as accounting for the laundry options when determining the optimized laundry conditions(page 23 lines 14-15).

As to claim 12, Jo et al. teaches wherein when having received an instruction regarding a laundry finish time via the input panel, the terminal device controller transfers data of the

Art Unit: 2125

laundry finish time to the laundry apparatus controller is taught as displaying a remaining time period of washing(page 2 line 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made or used to modify the teachings of Guzzi et al. with teachings of Jo et al. because the guided washing provides conveniences to beginners as well as all users of the washing machine and the ascertaining of washing conditions set according to requirements of the user permits to an exact conduction of the washing cycles.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 9, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guzzi et al. in view of Jo et al. and further in view of Mansbery et al.

Guzzi et al. and Jo et al. teach the claimed invention (claim 1) see paragraph number 6 above.

As to claim 9, Mansbery et al. teaches wherein the laundry apparatus controller notifies the terminal device via the first short-range communication device that a power supply of the laundry apparatus has been turned on, the terminal device confirms the notification and subsequently transmits the obtained operation control program to the laundry apparatus

Art Unit: 2125

controller is taught as washing machine is powered on and guided washing is displayed(col. 4 lines 63-66).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made or used to modify the teachings of Guzzi et al. with teachings of Mansbery et al. because the Mansbery discloses of controlling appliances remotely which allows the a person to be far away and not delay home chores until they get home

As to claim 14, Mansbery et al. teaches wherein the laundry apparatus controller transmits data of a model name of the laundry apparatus via the first short-range communication device to the terminal device is taught as model(col. 4 lines 58-61).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made or used to modify the teachings of Guzzi et al. with teachings of Mansbery et al. because the Mansbery discloses of controlling appliances remotely which allows the a person to be far away and not delay home chores until they get home

As to claim 15, Mansbery et al. teaches wherein the terminal controller transmits data of a type number of the laundry apparatus to the server to obtain an operation control program taking the transmitted data of the type number of the laundry apparatus into account, instead of the previous operation control program is taught as the type(col. 4 lines 58-61).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made or used to modify the teachings of Guzzi et al. with teachings of Mansbery et al. because the Mansbery discloses of controlling appliances remotely which allows the a person to be far away and not delay home chores until they get home

Conclusion

Art Unit: 2125

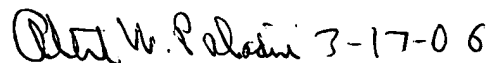
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Rapp whose telephone number is (571)272-3752. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 11:00-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on (571)272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chad Rapp
Examiner
Art Unit 2125

cjr

 3-17-06

ALBERT W. PALADINI
PRIMARY EXAMINER